



News Release from Congressman

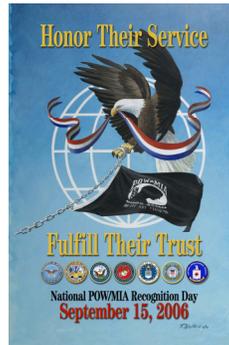
ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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SIMMONS GIVES KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today delivered the keynote address at National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony. The national ceremony is the official U.S. Department of Defense ceremony recognizing the sacrifices of our Nation's prisoners of war and missing personnel. The day's event was held at the Pentagon's Mall Entrance Parade Field.

In his opening remarks, Simmons said, "Good morning and thank you for inviting me to say a few words about true American heroes - our prisoners of war and our missing in action. These patriotic Americans assumed the burden of military service for difficult assignments in dangerous places around the world - far from their homes and families. They served the cause of freedom and Democracy when they defended our nation, our people and our values. Although they have been lost for a time, they have not been forgotten - and they will never be forgotten. We will find them and bring them home."

Simmons also announced Friday a development in the recovery of Captain Arnold Holm of Waterford (CT). Capt. Holm and two members of his helicopter crew disappeared over Vietnam more than 34 years ago. The Vietnamese Government also offered whatever support is necessary to accelerate the excavation of the probable Holm site.

In his remarks on this subject, Simmons said, "Once the crash site was located, I asked the Vietnamese government for special assistance to excavate the site next year without removing any other excavation from the list. Just this week I received a letter from Pham Van Que of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stating:

"During the 86th Joint Field Activity...the Vietnam-US Joint Investigation Team has found the crash site of a helicopter...which may be related to Captain Holm and his crew members. The Joint Investigation Team has suggested the excavation of this site at the earliest possible [time]."

Attending today's event at the request of Simmons were, Capt. Holm's widow and sister: Mrs. Margarete Holm and Mrs. Margaret Brewster, as well as friend and family.

Simmons' prepared remarks are attached.

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